

CONGRATULATING CANISIUS COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Canisius College Golden Griffins Women's Basketball Team on winning the 2005 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament on March 7, 2005. Their win over Marist College gives the "Griffs" its first-ever MAAC Championship and their first bid to the Division I NCAA Tournament.

The "Griffs" have had a truly remarkable season. After narrowly missing out on the MAAC Championship last season, Canisius capped their first 20-win season with a nail-biter in the MAAC Championship game. Their victory, like their entire season, was exemplified by a total-team effort. In the biggest game of her career, Becky Zak scored 12 points, three assists and two steals, and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Megan Lyte tallied 10 points and 11 rebounds, her seventh double-double of the season, and Jessie Lamparski registered 11 points, six boards, five assists and three steals. Jessica Steeves posted eight points, five rebounds and a blocked shot en route to joining Zak on the all-tournament accolades.

The accomplishment of the Canisius College Golden Griffins Women's Basketball team demonstrates the profound impact that Title IX has had on increasing opportunities in sports for women and girls. Title IX, part of the Education Amendments of 1972, required that public schools and colleges provide equal educational and athletic opportunities for girls and women. It has unquestionably been a tremendous factor in the lives of the talented members of this team.

It is important for girls and women to have every opportunity to succeed, especially when it comes to athletics. That is why I have introduced H.R. 595, the High School Athletics Accountability Act. This bill will require schools to report to the Department of Education basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Currently, high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for schools and parents to ensure fairness in athletics programs. Better information can help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot be prouder of the Canisius Women's Basketball team. I especially want to applaud coach Terry Zeh. As a first year coach, he demands accountability from his players both on and off the court, and is a strong role model for the entire college community. I wish to also commend college president Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., the coaching staff and players, and the student body for this Championship season. These women continue to be role models for young girls, and their wonderful accomplishment will inspire more girls to increase participation in athletics. I will be eagerly watching the team's

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first round game in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent Canisius College on the national stage.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay well deserved tribute to one of the great religious leaders of our time, Pastor Adrian Rogers of Tennessee.

In the words of Billy Graham, "We need for ministers of the Gospel to defend the Bible as the infallible Word of God . . . I believe in my heart that Adrian Rogers is such a man. I know him personally. I have walked with him and prayed with him . . . I know God's hand is upon Adrian Rogers as he proclaims the Bread of Life from his church and through radio and television . . . I praise God for his ministry."

These comments echo the sentiment of millions who've been touched and inspired by the life-changing ministry of Pastor Rogers. The high regard in which he is held translated to his three elections as President of the Southern Baptist Convention—the world's largest Protestant denomination with 16 million members. With a passion and gift for applying the gospel message to everyday life, he has also shared the "good news" as a noted author with scores of books and instructional material to his credit; as a featured speaker at a number of historic conferences and international crusades; and as the founder and broadcaster with Love Worth Finding ministries which is played on over 14,000 broadcast and cable television outlets, on nearly 2000 radio stations and in more than 150 countries worldwide.

With all that he has given to people across the nation and the world, Adrian Rogers has etched a special place in Tennessee and Mid-South history as the pastor of the renowned Bellevue Baptist Church. Founded in 1903 in a small chapel on the "outskirts of Memphis, Tennessee," Bellevue Baptist Church was in 1972 already a significant pillar in the religious community with a membership of approximately 9,000 persons. In this year, however, the entrance of Pastor Rogers and his wife, Joyce, served as a milestone in Bellevue's history. From this new beginning, the congregation grew from 9,000 to 29,000 members and expanded to a campus and multifaceted ministries that now stand as a model for houses of worship worldwide.

Through the growth and success, Pastor Rogers gives all credit to God saying that "Bellevue is what she is because of the love of Jesus. . . . Jesus is the glue that holds Bellevue together." These words are particularly significant as Adrian Rogers makes his transition from active Pastor to Pastor Emeritus of this great ministry.

For his humility and his worthy example of all that faith should represent, I would ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives would join with me in honoring a

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servant of God and a friend to humanity—Pastor Adrian Rogers.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of America's Blood Centers. At this moment, someone in America is in vital need of a life-saving blood transfusion. Donated blood is needed every two seconds across the nation. Today, American's will use thirty thousand units of donated blood. One out of seven hospital patients will require blood transfusions. One out of three people in this chamber will need donated blood at least once in their lifetime. Technological and scientific advancements in the medical field continue to rapidly develop, but there remains no substitution for the blood transfusion. Blood cannot be manufactured nor reproduced. This life sustaining substance can only be transfused from one person to another. Life-saving blood remains a gift from one person to the rest of society. Through blood donations we help each other to survive and overcome medical hardships. Blood donations connect and unify us as a people who care.

Today I stand to recognize America's Blood Centers, our nation's largest not-for-profit, community-based network of blood centers that keep on giving the gift of life. America's Blood Centers, founded in 1962, has grown to include seventy-two independent, community owned blood centers, which collect nearly half of the nation's blood supply. This June marks 10 years that Southwest Missouri's own Community Blood Center of the Ozarks has been providing blood to all Seventh District hospitals under the national guidance of America's Blood Centers. America's Blood Centers operate more than 600 collection sites that give the gift of blood to more than 150 million people and more than 3,300 U.S. hospitals. Not only do America's Blood Centers give blood, but they also ensure that their gift is safe and adequate by developing new tests and technologies as well as actively engaging in biomedical research in the area of transfusion medicine. Members of America's Blood Centers ardently work together to share resources and best practices, rising to meet increased national blood supply needs in times of peace, in times of war and in times of disaster. America's Blood Centers were the first to respond to the Oklahoma City bombing, Columbine shootings, and 9/11, and have since worked with the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to ensure adequate blood supply and rapid response in times of national disaster or acts of terrorism.

Additionally, America's Blood Centers continue to support U.S. military operations around the globe. Together the centers promote donor recruitment and societal awareness of blood donations as a top priority, working to guarantee that America will have the blood it needs to continue to live and thrive. I recognize and commend America's

Blood Centers on transfusing life into our nation whenever and wherever needed.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my colleagues WAYNE GILCHREST and NORM DICKS, legislation to reauthorize the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was established in 1984 when President Ronald Reagan signed into law legislation introduced by then Congressman John Breaux. Since that time, the foundation has financed more than 7,200 conservation projects both here in the United States and throughout the world. By leveraging a small amount of Federal assistance each year, they have been able to successfully raise millions of private dollars which have been spent to encourage Coral Reef conservation, enact an early warning system for invasive species, support oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay, help save endangered wild tigers and assist in the conservation of habitat critical for endangered marine sea turtles.

The foundation is governed by a board of directors consisting of 25 Americans who are dedicated to conservation. These distinguished men and women serve without compensation. In addition, the foundation is prohibited from using any Federal money to pay administrative expenses and both the foundation and its grantees may not use any Federal dollars to engage in litigation or lobbying activities.

In my own State of California, the foundation has approved hundreds of conservation projects. These projects have included: California Rangeland Trust, California Saltwater Wetlands Habitat restoration, California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, Point San Luis Lighthouse improvements, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Upper Sacramento River Riparian restoration.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act is a simple, bipartisan and non-controversial bill. It will extend the existing authorization levels for an additional 5 years, clarify the requirement that Congress must be given a 30-day congressional notice requirement prior to the issuance of any conservation grant or expenditure of funds and modify the matching requirement to ensure that the foundation is not required to satisfy this provision in those cases where it does not receive any contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation can continue its worthwhile conservation efforts in the future.

Additional co-sponsors of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2005: Congressman NORMAN D. DICKS.

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HALABJA REMEMBERED

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 1988 Saddam Hussein brutally attacked Halabja, Kurdistan in Iraq. When the bombing attacks were completed, over 5,000 were dead and over 8,000 injured.

The injured people were civilians. Families died together that day, orphans were made that day, a day that the Kurdish people will never forget.

As the poison gas largely cleared by noon that day, the deadly smoke lay close to the ground, sinking into the basements of the homes where people had gone to seek shelter.

They watched as their skin burned. Some were immediately blinded. Some took shelter among the corpses of their family members. The ones who were able to run, ran, stopping only when they were overcome with pain or exhaustion.

Today, I honor those men, women, and children who lost their lives at the hands of a ruthless killer, Saddam Hussein. The Halabja massacre represents 5,000 of the 200,000 Kurdish people who died or are missing during the genocide campaigns of the Saddam Hussein regime. Hundreds of thousands of other Iraqis were also killed or are missing.

Mr. Speaker, as our Armed Forces battle to build a democratic future for the people of Iraq, we should recall the horror of Halabja, and acknowledge that the hellish tyranny that shackled all but a few Baathist thugs is part of Iraq history and not part of its future. Let's recall the suffering of all Iraqis, especially the Kurds in Halabja, and honor our Armed Forces for the better future they are building in Iraq.

VERNA KING—AN INSPIRATION TO SAN DIEGO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Verna Lee St. Clair King, born and reared in Berwick, Louisiana, is the daughter of John Westley St. Clair and Florence Ellen Calvin St. Clair. Educated in Louisiana and Texas, she earned her A.B. degree from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas and later an M.A. from San Diego State University.

Verna grew up determined to make life better for others. She eventually became a teacher, making politics and helping others through community service her lifelong hobbies. Her intelligence and insight led her to the political arena and the fight for equal education.

A professional educator in San Diego for thirty years, Verna has a long history of involvement with the San Diego Teachers' Association (SDTA). Through the SDTA, she represented the National Education Association and served as a member of the National Women's Caucus and Black Caucus.

Verna's unselfish nature led her to become increasingly involved in a wide array of civic activities: she was vice-chair of the 79th Assembly District Committee, served on the 44th Congressional Advisory Committee, and was a charter member of the San Diego Council of Democratic Women. In addition, she is a charter member and past president of Women Inc. She is also involved with Alpha Kappa Alpha, CTA, the YWCA, her church, and the Democratic Party. In addition, she has recently served on the Community Service Association Board as well as the San Diego Historical Site Board.

Verna's involvement in the community and politics has allowed her to interact and work with individuals such as Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young, Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, Alan Cranston and Tom Bradley.

Verna is listed in prominent annuals and has received many awards in recognition of her professional and community service. In the past, she has been the recipient of the Democratic Committee's Golden Key Award and received a Key to the City of San Diego for her outstanding work in the field of human relations. For bridging the gap between parents and teachers, Verna was honored with an Honorary Service award by the Ninth District P.T.A. Her current honors reflect the esteem in which she is held by her fellow professionals and by those who have had the pleasure of working with her in political and community activities.

Verna's husband, Alonzo King, now deceased, shared her interests both politically and professionally. In addition, Verna and Alonzo were blessed with a close family that included five children: Joyce L. King Thomas, Verna Lee E. Bickerstaff, St. Clair King, Alonzo King, and Reginald King, the latter two of whom are deceased.

Verna has always been gracious in all of her endeavors, and her knowledge and experiences have been invaluable to professionals, friends, fellow committee members and the community.

She truly has been an inspiration to all San Diego.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRACY O. KING

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas State Representative Tracy King for his many accomplishments in business and in government.

Mr. King was born in Baytown, Texas, in 1960. After graduating from Carrizo Springs High School, he attended Southwest Texas Junior College for a year, and then transferred to Texas A&M University, where he completed his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering.

Upon his graduation, Representative King began working at the Beltone Hearing Aid Center in San Antonio. He moved up quickly, and was responsible for opening the branch office in Uvalde. In 1987, he became owner of